

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-12 and 14-18 are pending.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9 and 14-16 are amended, and Claims 2, 5, 8 and 13 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 13 and intervening dependent Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1 herein by amendment, and Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9 and 14-16 have been amended to address the basis of claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, as well as to provide the dependent claims with proper dependency.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the amendments merely incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of previously considered claims into the base or independent claim, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 13-18, although objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 13 and intervening dependent Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1 herein by amendment, thereby placing independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 3-4, 6-7, 9-12 and 14-18 in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 14 and 16 are objected to for informalities therein. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to be fully responsive to the objection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 4 - 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 4, 6-7 and 9 have been amended herein in a manner believed to be fully responsive to the basis of the rejection, wherein support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed, see, for example, page 5, lines 16-19 and page 7, lines 16-18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 6-7 and 9 are fully enabled by the application as originally filed such that a person of ordinary skill in the art to which the claimed invention pertains would readily and without undue experimentation be able to make the invention recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 4, 6-7 and 9 have been amended herein in a manner believed to be fully responsive to the basis of the rejection, wherein support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed, see, for example, page 5, lines 16-19 and page 7, lines 16-18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4, 6-7 and 9 are clear and definite. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

Claims 1-9 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 4,878,282 to Bauer; and Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bauer in view of United States Patent Number 4,396,100 to Eltze. Although Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-12 and 14-18 are believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above, thereby rendering the rejections moot. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-12 and 14-18, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107348.00603.**

Respectfully submitted,
ARENT FOX LLP



Murat Ozgu
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372

Arent Fox LLP

1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400

Washington, DC 20036-5339

Telephone: (202) 857-6000

Facsimile: (202) 857-6395

MO/ayw